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Conservative groups sue to block Biden plan canceling \$39 billion in student loans

By Collin Binkley
Associated Press

(AP) - Two conservative groups are asking a federal court to block the Biden administration's plan to cancel \$39 billion in student loans for more than 800,000 borrowers.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in Michigan, the groups argue that the administration overstepped its power when it announced the forgiveness in July, just weeks after the Supreme Court struck down a broader cancellation plan pushed by President Joe Biden.

It asks a judge to rule the cancellation illegal and stop the Education Department from carrying it out while the case is decided. The suit was filed by the New Civil Liberties Alliance on behalf of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Cato Institute.

The Education Department called the suit "a desperate attempt from right wing special interests to keep hundreds of thousands of borrowers in debt."

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President Joe Biden speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, June 30, 2023, in Washington, as his administration is moving forward on a new student debt relief plan after the Supreme Court struck down his original initiative. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

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Conservative groups sue to block Biden plan canceling \$39 billion in student loans

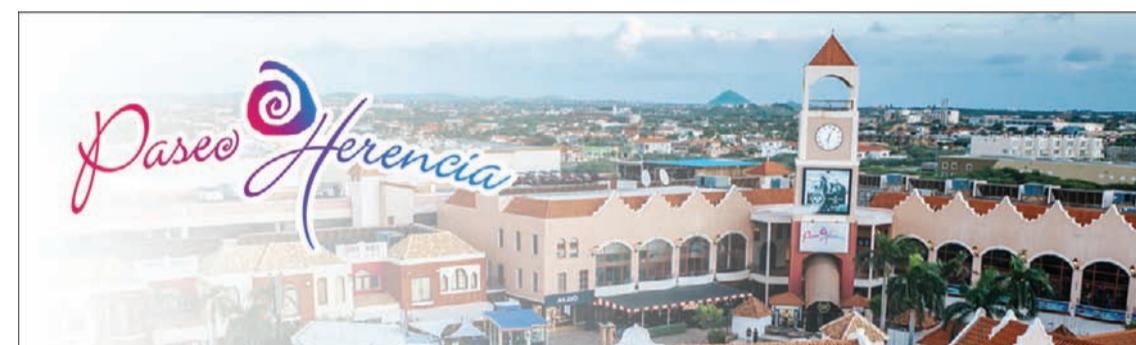
Continued from Front

"We are not going to back down or give an inch when it comes to defending working families," the department said in a statement.

It's part of a wave of legal challenges Republicans have leveled at the Biden administration's efforts to

reduce or eliminate student debt for millions of Americans. Biden has said he will pursue a different cancellation plan after the Supreme Court decision, and his administration is separately unrolling a more generous repayment plan that opponents call a "backdoor attempt" at cancellation. The Biden administration

announced July 14 that it would soon forgive loans for 804,000 borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans. The plans have long offered cancellation after borrowers make 20 or 25 years of payments, but "past administrative failures" resulted in inaccurate payments counts that set borrowers back on their



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President Joe Biden speaks in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, June 30, 2023, in Washington, as his administration is moving forward on a new student debt relief plan after the Supreme Court struck down his original initiative. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci, File)

progress toward forgiveness, the department said. The new action was announced as a "one-time adjustment" that would count certain periods of past nonpayment as if borrowers had been making payments during that time. It moved 804,000 borrowers across the 20- or 25-year mark needed for cancellation, and it moved millions of others closer to that threshold.

It's meant to address a practice known as forbearance steering, in which student loan servicers hired by the government wrongly pushed borrowers to go into forbearance — a temporary pause on payments because of hardship — even if they would have been better served by enrolling in one of the income-driven repayment plans.

Under the one-time fix, past periods in forbearance were also counted as progress toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, a program that offers can-

cellation after 10 years of payments while working in a government or nonprofit job.

Biden's action was illegal, the lawsuit says, because it wasn't authorized by Congress and didn't go through a federal rulemaking process that invites public feedback.

"No authority allows the Department to count nonpayments as payments," the lawsuit says. It adds that the action came in "a press release that neither identified the policy's legal authority nor considered its exorbitant price tag."

The conservative groups say Biden's plan undercuts Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The Mackinac Center and Cato Institute say they employ borrowers who are working toward student loan cancellation through the program. They say Biden's action illegally accelerates progress toward relief, diminishing the benefit for nonprofit employers. □

Pence, Trump attorney clash over what Trump told his VP ahead of Jan. 6, 2021

By David Klepper
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's defense attorney says the former president never asked Mike Pence to overturn the will of the voters in the 2020 election, but only wanted the former vice president to "pause" the certification of votes to allow states to investigate his claims of election fraud. Those baseless claims had already been rejected by numerous courts.

Speaking on several Sunday morning news shows, Trump attorney John Lauro said Trump was within his First Amendment rights when he petitioned Pence to delay the certification on Jan. 6, 2021.

"The ultimate ask of Vice President Pence was to pause the counts and allow the states to weigh in," Lauro said on CBS' "Face the Nation." He added that Trump was convinced there were irregularities in the election that needed to be investigated by state authorities before the election could be certified.

Pence, who like Trump is seeking the Republican nomination for president in 2024, flatly rejected that account during an interview Sunday, saying Trump seemed "convinced" as early as December that Pence had the right to re-



Vice President Mike Pence speaks alongside President Donald Trump during a coronavirus task force briefing at the White House in Washington on March 22, 2020. (AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

ject or return votes and that on Jan. 5, Trump's attorneys told him "We want you to reject votes outright."

Pence's role in certifying Joe Biden's win over Trump in the 2020 election makes him a central figure in the prosecution against Trump on charges that he sought to overturn the will of the voters and remain in office even after the courts had roundly rejected his claims of electoral fraud. Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general also had said there were no credible evidence the election was tainted.

Last week's indictment chronicles how Trump and

his allies, in what special counsel Jack Smith described as an attack on a "bedrock function of the U.S. government," repeatedly lied about the results in the two months after he lost the election and pressured Pence and state election officials to take action to help him cling to power. Those efforts culminated on Jan. 6, 2021, when Trump supporters violently stormed the Capitol in an effort to stop the certification.

Trump pleaded not guilty to those charges. Separately, he also faces charges that he falsified business records relating to hush money payments to a porn actor

in New York and improperly kept classified documents at his Palm Beach, Florida, resort and obstructed an investigation into their handling.

Speaking on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," Lauro said Pence's testimony will show Trump believed the election was rigged and that he was listening to the advice of his attorneys when he sought to delay the certification. Pence, who appeared before the grand jury that indicted Trump, said he will comply with the law if asked to testify.

"I cannot wait until I have the opportunity to cross examine Mr. Pence," Lauro said. "He will completely eliminate any doubt that President Trump firmly believed that the election irregularities had led to an inappropriate result."

The 45-page indictment details how people close to Trump repeatedly told him he had lost and that there was no truth to his claims of fraud. In one encounter days before the riot, Trump told Pence he was "too honest" after the vice president said he didn't have the authority to reject electoral votes, the indictment says.

Former allies of Trump have said Trump knew he lost but spread false claims about fraud anyway. After he

failed to convince state officials to illegally swing the election, Trump and his allies recruited fake electors in swing states to sign certificates falsely stating Trump had prevailed.

"He knew well that he had lost the election," Trump's former Attorney General Bill Barr said in an interview last week.

Lauro said Trump's defense team will seek to move the case from Washington because it wants a more diverse jury. He said he would support televising the trial, and dismissed speculation that it could wrap up before the 2024 election.

"In 40 years of practicing law, on a case of this magnitude, I've not known a single case to go to trial before two to three years," Lauro said on CBS' "Face the Nation." Responding to questions about whether Trump can get a fair trial in the nation's capitol, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a former federal prosecutor, said he can.

"Yes, I believe jurors can be fair. I believe in the American people," Christie said Sunday on CNN.

A slew of people charged in the Jan. 6 riot have tried to get their trials moved out of Washington. Yet judges have rejected those motions in every case, saying fair jurors can be found with proper questioning. □

Man whose body was found in a barrel in Malibu had been shot in the head, coroner says

Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. (AP) — A man whose naked body was found inside a barrel in Malibu, California, last week was shot in the head, a coroner has determined. The man was identified Wednesday by the Los Angeles County coroner's office as 32-year-old Javonnta Marshann Murphy but no cause of death was given at the time. The coroner's case information now lists the cause of death as

a gunshot wound to the head, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday. The circumstances that led to Murphy being shot and sealed inside a barrel remain under investigation by the Los Angeles County sheriff's office.

The 55-gallon (208-liter) black plastic barrel was first spotted July 30 floating in a Malibu lagoon and brought in with a kayak by a maintenance worker, but it was not immediately opened.



This image taken from video and provided by KABC-7 TV shows law enforcement officers stand by a barrel at Malibu Lagoon on July 31, 2023. (KABC-7 via AP, File)

The Sheriff's Department said the barrel was opened July 31 by a lifeguard at Malibu Lagoon State Beach, who had retrieved it after it washed back into the lagoon.

It was not known how long the body had been in the drum.

Patrick Nelson, a family friend, told the Los Angeles Times that Murphy had grown up in South Los Angeles with four brothers and was an aspiring rapper. □

McConnell is warmly embraced by Kentucky Republicans amid questions about his health

By Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

MAYFIELD, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell received a rousing welcome from the party faithful Saturday at a high-profile home-state political gathering amid renewed scrutiny of his health after the 81-year-old lawmaker froze up mid-sentence during a recent Capitol Hill news conference.

"This is my 28th Fancy Farm, and I want to assure you it's not my last," McConnell said at the top of his breakfast speech before the annual picnic that is the traditional jumping off point for the fall campaign season in Kentucky. It was his only reference, however vague, to his health.

McConnell, who is widely regarded as the main architect of the GOP's rise to



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., smiles while giving a speech at the Graves County Republican Party Breakfast at WK&T Technology Park in Mayfield, Ky., on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023. (Ryan C. Hermens/Lexington Herald-Leader via AP)

power in Kentucky, arrived to a prolonged standing ovation and promoted the candidacy of a protege running for governor this year.

Later at the Fancy Farm picnic, McConnell made a pitch for the GOP statewide ticket in November, which is led by Daniel Cameron,

a former McConnell staffer who is the party's nominee for governor. McConnell slammed Democratic policies from Washington to Kentucky. He bemoaned high inflation pinching family budgets and Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's restrictions during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

McConnell's health has drawn increased attention since he briefly left his own news conference in Washington on July 26 after stopping his remarks midsentence and staring off into space for several seconds. GOP colleagues standing behind him grabbed his elbows and escorted him back to his office. When he returned to answer questions, McConnell said he was "fine." Asked if he is still able to do his job, he said, "Yeah."

McConnell was out of the Senate for almost six weeks earlier this year after falling and hitting his head after a dinner event at a Washington hotel. He was hospitalized for several days, and his office later said he suffered a concussion and fractured a rib. His speech has sounded more halting

in recent weeks, prompting questions among some of his colleagues about his health.

He has said he plans to serve his full term as Republican leader — he was elected to a two-year term in January and would be up for reelection to that post again after the 2024 elections. McConnell was first elected to the Senate in 1984 and has been the Republican leader since 2007. He would face reelection to the Senate in 2026.

At the breakfast event Saturday, McConnell did not delve into national issues or comment on former President Donald Trump's legal entanglements, and he did not meet with reporters afterward. In his nine-minute speech, McConnell accused Democrats of having "turned their backs on rural America." □

Veterans see historic expansion of benefits for toxic exposure as new law nears anniversary

By Chris Megerian
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nicole Leger always thought of the burn pits at military bases in Afghanistan as more like campfires than health hazards. Ordered to dispose of sensitive documents, she would toss the paperwork into the flames while catching up with fellow soldiers, moments of quiet bonding that provided a respite from her riskier work as a hastily trained medic for the U.S. Army.

"We really didn't see that it was dangerous at the time," she said. "It was just part of the mission. So we had to get it done."

But then her sinus problems began, only worsening after she returned home, where she sometimes found herself gasping for breath at night. She remembered thinking, "This wasn't who I was before I got in."

Although Leger already received disability benefits for post-traumatic stress,

migraines and a hip fracture, it wasn't until President Joe Biden signed legislation known as the PACT Act last year that her monthly payments expanded to take into account the impact of the burn pits. Now 34 years old, Leger and her fiancé have moved out of a cramped townhouse and into a larger home in a suburb of Tampa, Florida, where their four children can each have a bedroom.

"I still wake up pinching myself," she said. Leger is one beneficiary of the largest expansion of veterans assistance in decades, and the administration is racing to sign up as many people as possible as the first anniversary of the law approaches. Although there's no deadline to apply, anyone who files a claim or simply signals the intent to do so by Wednesday could collect payments retroactive to last year if the claim is ap-



Nicole Leger works from her home office Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in Lithia, Fla. (AP Photo/Chris O'Meara)

proved. Under the law, certain cancers and ailments are presumed to be connected to the burn pits that were used to dispose of trash and potentially toxic materials. For veterans who served during the Vietnam War, hypertension and other conditions were added to the list of problems presumed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange, which was used by the U.S. military to clear vegetation.

since the law was enacted. In addition, more than 4.1 million veterans have completed toxic screenings, which are questionnaires to analyze their potential exposure and determine whether additional tests are required.

Implementing the legislation has proved challenging for the VA despite hiring new staff to accommodate a historic influx of claims. The backlog is about 266,000, meaning waits of at least four months for claims to be processed, and the list is expected to grow to 450,000 in October and 730,000 in April. During a recent oversight hearing, Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., expressed concern about "bad trends."

Despite the growing backlog, the VA has kept up its outreach efforts. It has spent \$7.5 million on advertising, including a billboard in New York's Times Square, and hosted events around the country. □

German far-right says the EU is a 'failed project' as it prepares for European Parliament elections

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — The far-right Alternative for Germany declared the European Union a "failed project" in its current form as it adopted its program for next June's European Parliament election at its party convention in the eastern city of Magdeburg on Sunday, the German news agency dpa reported.

The text states that the EU has "completely failed" in all important areas, including its migration and climate policy, and it rejects the Euro as a currency.

However, the party stopped short of demanding Germany's exit from the EU. Instead, the AfD is calling for the EU to be re-founded as a "federation of European nations," dpa reported.

According to the election program, the main tasks of the new federation should be the protection of external borders against migra-



Tino Chrupalla, right, co-chairman of the 'Alternative fuer Deutschland' (Alternative for Germany) and Alice Weidel, left, co-chairwoman of the 'Alternative fuer Deutschland' (Alternative for Germany) party cheer at the end of the European election meeting in Magdeburg, Germany, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023. (Klaus-Dietmar Gabbert/dpa via AP)

tion, strategic autonomy in security policy, and the preservation of "different identities" in Europe.

Recent polls put support for the AfD at 19-22%, behind only the main conservative opposition bloc. AfD candidates recently won elections in eastern Germany to lead a county administration for the first time since the 1930s and now holds the mayoralty in a town

with a population of 56,000. The program adopted in Magdeburg Sunday takes a softer line towards the EU than the draft program from June, in which the AfD said it would seek the "orderly dissolution of the EU." Several AfD officials had previously voiced their desire for Germany to exit the EU altogether, in what is called "Dexit." However, the new program says the

AfD supports the idea of a "Europe of fatherlands, a European community of sovereign, democratic states."

AfD co-leader Alice Weidel said that the new compromise had been reached during negotiations late Sunday night, dpa reported.

The convention also finalized the AfD's list of 35 candidates for the European Parliament election next year.

Maximilian Krah was selected last weekend as the AfD's lead candidate with 65.7 percent of the votes. Krah has been a member of the European Parliament since 2019.

Leading members of the AfD spoke out on Sunday against cooperating with the country's main opposition conservative bloc, the Christian Democratic Union of former chancellor Angela Merkel. □

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Dozens saved by Italy from migrant shipwrecks; some, clinging to rocks, plucked to safety by copters

By Frances D'Emilio

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Dozens of migrants were dramatically rescued by Italy as they foundered in the sea or clung to a rocky reef Sunday after three boats launched by smugglers from northern Africa shipwrecked in rough waters in separate incidents over the weekend. Survivors said some 30 fellow migrants were missing from capsized vessels.

In a particularly risky operation, two helicopters battled strong winds to pluck to safety, one by one, the migrants, including a child and two pregnant women, who had been stranded for nearly two days on a steep, rocky reef of tiny Lampedusa island. The migrants had been clinging to the jagged rocks after their boat smashed into the reef late Friday.



In this picture taken from video distributed on Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023 by the Italian Alpine Rescue squads, a migrant stranded on a rocky reef on the tiny Italian southern island of Lampedusa, Sicily is plucked to safety by helicopter. (Italian Alpine Rescue via AP)

For years, migrants have taken to smugglers' unseaworthy vessels to make the risky crossing of the Mediterranean to try to reach southern European shores in hopes of being granted asylum or finding family or jobs, especially in northern European countries. All 34 migrants who endured two nights on the reef were rescued, said

Federico Catania, a spokesperson for the Alpine assistance group whose experts were lowered from a hovering Italian air force helicopter. Migrants, some wearing shorts and flip-flops, clung to their rescuers as they were pulled up into the copter. A firefighters' helicopter also carried out some of the rescues. The two women, including

one in an advanced stage of pregnancy, were examined by medical personnel, said Maria Ylenia Di Paola, a nurse on Lampedusa. She told Italian state TV that the women were dehydrated and cold, "but above all they were psychologically tried."

The helicopter operation was launched after the coast guard determined the rough sea would make it impossible for rescue boats to approach the jagged rocks safely. A day earlier, Italian helicopters dropped food, water and thermal blankets down to the migrants on the reef. Meanwhile, survivors of two boats that capsized on Saturday some 23 nautical miles (42.5 kilometers) southwest of Lampedusa told rescuers that about 30 fellow migrants were missing. □

The UN cut their food aid this summer and these Palestinians now struggle to find their next meal

By Julia Frankel
Associated Press

JENIN, West Bank (AP) — Except for a small bag of lentils and the orange juice she reserves for guests, there is no food in Ashwaq Abu al-Wafa's house in the northern West Bank city of Jenin. Ever since the U.N. cut her food aid in June, she has fallen behind on rent. All her money now goes to feeding her three children, she said.

"The fridge is empty," al-Wafa said from her apartment on Thursday. "I can barely hold all of this stress in my heart." Thousands of families like al-Wafa's across the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip go through the day not sure where they will get their next meal now that the World Food Program has halted aid to 200,000 people, 60% of beneficiaries, its largest-ever cuts in the Palestinian territories.

The agency has made cuts across the world, from war-torn Yemen to West Africa,



Two Palestinian school boys cross a street damaged during the July Israeli army operation in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

a region gripped by its worst hunger crisis in years. The WFP's deputy executive director, Carl Skau, announced last week that the agency has raised just \$5 billion of the \$20 billion it needs to operate fully, forcing it to suspend aid to 38 of its 86 countries where it operates.

Zekriat Karram, who also lives in Jenin, said that her family has survived by racking up debt at local groceries. Now, shopkeepers demand payback. When Karram was recently hos-

pitalized, her six children, ranging in age from 3 to 16, scraped together meals of olives and bread.

The cuts come at a particularly bad time for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, which is witnessing a surge in violence unseen in nearly two decades.

Al-Wafa and Karram's homes have smashed doors and cracked windows, scars from recent stepped-up military raids into the flashpoint city, the latest of which marked the most intense in nearly two

decades and left 12 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier dead. Israel says the raids are meant to thwart future attacks.

Al-Wafa's 14-year-old son, Ammar, was shot in the chest during a January raid, she said, adding to her family's expenses and squeezing their food budget. Her husband's income depends on whether he can pass through Israeli military checkpoints to take produce into Jenin. When the Israeli army closes the roads, his work dries up and his family skips meals.

"Food insecurity here is a symptom of something larger," said Samer Abdellah, WFP country director for the Palestinian territories. "Conflict, access and movement restrictions and the barriers to everyday life have led to soaring unemployment and poverty."

The WFP said it suspended aid to those who could earn additional income or get other assistance, like the Palestinian Authority's

cash transfer program for poor families.

Only the most vulnerable, 150,000 people in the West Bank and Gaza, continue to receive aid from WFP. Their aid will be cut if donors don't provide more funding by November, the agency recently warned. Meanwhile, more than 1 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza receive other kinds of assistance from a U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees and their descendants.

The Palestinian Authority, in the midst of a financial crisis, has said it can't fill the shortfall.

Already, the WFP cuts have hurt small businesses in the territories, which once busied with customers using WFP vouchers.

Palestinian shop owner Anas Eqteit has seen sales plunge by 70%. He laid off three of his four workers. Before June, his mini-market in Jenin served 50 families with WFP vouchers a week. Now, it serves five. □

A deadline arrives for Niger's junta to reinstate the president and some citizens cheer and fear what's next

By Sam Mednick
Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — The deadline arrived Sunday for Niger's military junta to reinstate the country's ousted president, but the West Africa regional bloc that has threatened a military intervention faces prominent appeals to pursue more peaceful means. In the capital, coup leaders appeared at a stadium rally where a chicken decorated in the colors of former colonizer France was beheaded, to cheers.

Neighboring Nigeria's Senate has pushed back against the plan by the regional bloc known as ECOWAS, urging Nigeria's president, the bloc's current chair, on Saturday to explore options other than the use of force. ECOWAS can still move ahead, as final decisions are made by consensus by member

states, but the warning on the eve of the deadline raised questions about the intervention's fate.

The July 26 coup, in which mutinous soldiers installed Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani as head of state, adds another layer of complexity to West Africa's Sahel region that's struggling with military takeovers, spreading Islamic extremism and a shift by some states toward Russia and its proxy, the Wagner mercenary group. Niger's ousted President Mohamed Bazoum said he is held "hostage" by the mutinous soldiers. An ECOWAS delegation was unable to meet with Tchiani, who analysts have asserted led the coup to avoid being fired. Now the junta has reached out to Wagner for assistance while severing security ties with former colonizer France. Algeria and Chad, non-



Supporters of Niger's ruling junta hold a Russian flag in Niamey, Niger, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023. (AP Photo/Sam Mednick)

ECOWAS neighbors with strong militaries in the region, have said they oppose the use of force or won't intervene militarily, and neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso — both run by juntas — have said an intervention would be a "declaration of war" against them, too.

It was not immediately clear on Sunday what ECOWAS

will do next. Thousands of people at Sunday's rally in Niger's capital, Niamey, cheered the coup leaders' appearance and expressed defiance against both the ECOWAS threat and France's long presence in the region. Some waved Russian flags.

Hours before Sunday's deadline, hundreds of youth joined security forces

in the darkened streets in the capital to stand guard at a dozen roundabouts until morning, checking cars for weapons and heading the junta's call to watch out for foreign intervention and spies.

Some passing cars honked in support. Some people called for solidarity among African nations.

ECOWAS shouldn't have given the junta a one-week deadline to reinstate Bazoum but rather only up to 48 hours, said Peter Pham, former U.S. special envoy for West Africa's Sahel region and a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council. "Now it's dragged out, which gives the junta time to entrench itself," he said. The most favorable scenario for an intervention would be a force coming in with the help of those on the inside, he said. □



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ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamento, Papiamento is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small



rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its port-side in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached

by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.



Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven.





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Celebrating Dedication and Loyalty:

Jessica Alders Commemorates her 45th Work Anniversary as Member Relations Coordinator at Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba



commitment, dedication, and passion have made her an epitome of loyalty in the industry.

Jessica Alders has played a pivotal role in nurturing the resort's reputation for exceptional service and unmatched guest experiences. Her journey began as a bright-eyed young professional, eager to make a difference in the world of hospitality. Over the years, she has not only witnessed Casa del Mar's growth but has also been an integral part of shaping its success story.

With unparalleled dedication, Jessica has worked tirelessly to create lasting impressions on the resort's esteemed members and guests. Her impeccable attention to detail and genuine care for each individual has earned her widespread admiration, making her the longest-serving employee in the history of Casa del Mar. Beyond her professional acumen, Jessica's

Oranjestad — Casa del Mar, a leading name in hospitality, takes immense pride in celebrating the remarkable 45-year tenure of Jessica Alders as a Member Relations Coordinator. An invaluable asset to the Casa del Mar family, Jessica's unwavering



warmth and kind demeanor have endeared her to countless members and colleagues alike.

and guests have left an indelible mark on our resort's reputation. Everybody loves Jessica!"

As a Member Relations Coordinator, Jessica Alders has been the cornerstone of the resort's guest relations department. Her expertise in handling complex member requests, providing personalized experiences, and anticipating the needs of esteemed guests have set the bar high for excellence within the industry. Jessica's ability to foster lasting relationships has made Casa del Mar a home away from home for its visitors.

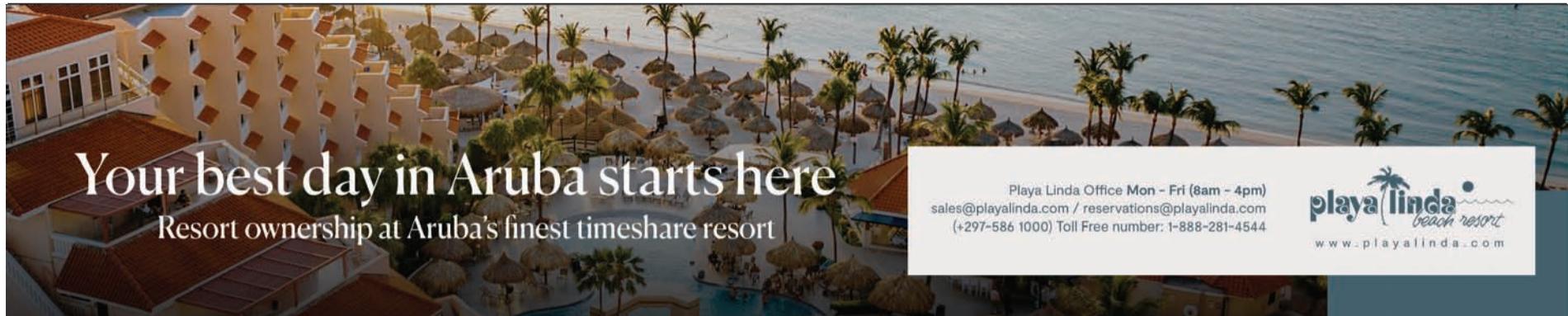
"Jessica's unwavering loyalty and commitment have been instrumental in defining the standards of service at Casa del Mar," said Starr Ramos, her Manager at Casa del Mar. "Her genuine care and passion for creating exceptional experiences for our members

In her 45 years with Casa del Mar, Jessica has established herself as a valuable asset to the organization. Always willing to assist other departments with her knowledge, she readily shares her past experiences, fostering a collaborative and knowledgeable work environment.

The 45th anniversary of Jessica Alders at Casa del Mar is not only a celebration of her individual journey but also a testament to the values that Casa del Mar holds dear — excellence, dedication, and a genuine commitment to creating cherished lasting memories for all guests.

Join Casa del Mar in celebrating and congratulating Jessica Alders and her outstanding 45-year career.





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Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle’s Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you’re up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you’ve completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok

National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It’s also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it’s still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call it the cave pool.



Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and

there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won’t be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you’ll see a calm, crystal

blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder.

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours







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Infini - Where Culinary Artistry Meets Intimacy



Nestled in the heart of Aruba, Infini offers a unique and unforgettable dining experience that sets it apart from other fine dining establishments on the island. As an exclusive chef's table with only 18 seats available per night, Infini promises an intimate journey of flavors and sensations that will leave guests in awe.

One of the defining features of Infini is the personalised attention given to each guest. As diners take their seats at the chef's table, they are greeted by skilled culinary artisans who not only cook and plate each dish but also take the time to describe the origins

and inspirations behind every creation. This interaction elevates the dining experience, making it not just a meal but an immersive journey into the world of gastronomy.

The Asian Caribbean Impressions Menu, with its 8 courses and amuse-bouche, showcases a blend of flavours that pays tribute to the rich tapestry of local producers and farmers on the island. Each course is thoughtfully curated to celebrate the island's natural bounty and honour those who have contributed to the culinary landscape of Aruba.

The journey begins with the Amuse-Bouches, featuring mushrooms from the local urban farm, 'Farm a Cure Fungi'. The dishes, such as the 'Mushrooms Canele' and 'Shiitake Pirouline', are a testament to the talent and creativity of the team. This delicate yet flavorful start sets the tone for the culinary adventure that lies ahead.

Infini's decor and ambi-

ance further contribute to the overall dining experience. The restaurant's terrace overlooking Eagle Beach offers a stunning backdrop to enjoy a pre-dinner drink while soaking in the picturesque views. The intimate space, catering to a maximum of 18 guests, ensures that every diner receives personalised attention from the chefs, making them feel like VIPs at a private gathering. Each course of the 8-course menu tells a story of its own, paying homage to local producers and their dedication to their craft. Dishes like 'Lechuga', a lettuce-based creation in collaboration with another local farm by the name of 'Aruba Happyponics', exemplify Infini's commitment to supporting the community and promoting sustainability.

The restaurant's commitment to showcasing Aruba's unique ingredients continues with 'Cocolishi', a dish featuring Norwegian scallops and ajoblanco, a Spanish gazpacho variation. The meticulous presentation and combination of flavours highlight the skillful fusion of cultures in every bite.

The dish 'Maishi y Cabaron' embraces the local essence of corn and shrimps, while 'Terrine di Porco' pays tribute to the island's talented bacon producer by the name of William Jansen. The 'Hutspot', a Dutch-



inspired dish with tenderloin medallions, presents a harmonious blend of international influences.

Moving on to the desserts, 'Mango y Coco' offers a delightful pannacotta, while 'Berehein y Aloe' showcases the innovative use of eggplant and aloe vera, cultivated by farmer Loraine of 'Petite Greens Aruba'. Each dish is a testament to the creativity, passion, and culinary excellence of the team at Infini.

Infini's excellence is evident not only in the hearts of satisfied guests but also in the numerous accolades and reviews. With five stars on platforms like TripAdvisor, Google, and OpenTable, the restaurant has earned praise from critics

and diners alike. Forbes magazine's comparison of the dining experience to a theatre further reinforces the notion that Infini is not merely a restaurant but a captivating performance of culinary artistry.

Infini stands as a culinary gem, offering an intimate and exclusive experience that tantalises the senses and touches the soul. With its Asian Caribbean Impressions Menu and the dedication to local producers, it is a testament to the island's rich flavours and traditions. A reservation at Infini promises an unforgettable evening of gastronomic delight, leaving guests with memories to savor long after the final course has been served.

Asian Caribbean Impressions Menu
Spice Up Your Island Adventure

Savor the epitome of fine dining at Infini, where artistry meets cuisine in an intimate setting of only 18 seats per night. Experience the magic as our talented Chef Urvin Croes creates an unforgettable 8-course culinary dream right before your eyes, featuring our exquisite Asian Caribbean Impressions Menu. Elevate your senses and indulge in a symphony of flavors, blending the best of both worlds. Infini promises an unparalleled dining journey on Aruba, leaving you with cherished memories to savor forever.

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The district of Savaneta

A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.



It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar



and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805) During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curaçao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them. In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and coun-

tries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name
The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



Artificial intelligence is gaining state lawmakers' attention, and they have a lot of questions

By Susan Haigh
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) —

As state lawmakers rush to get a handle on fast-evolving artificial intelligence technology, they're often focusing first on their own state governments before imposing restrictions on the private sector.

Legislators are seeking ways to protect constituents from discrimination and other harms while not hindering cutting-edge advancements in medicine, science, business, education and more.

Connecticut plans to inventory all of its government systems using artificial intelligence by the end of 2023, posting the information online. And starting next year, state officials must regularly review these systems to ensure they won't lead to unlawful discrimination.

Maroney, a Democrat who has become a go-to AI authority in the General Assembly, said Connecticut lawmakers will likely focus on private industry next year. He plans to work this fall on model AI legislation with lawmakers in Colorado

do, New York, Virginia, Minnesota and elsewhere that includes

Overall, at least 25 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia introduced artificial intelligence bills this year. As of late July, 14 states and Puerto Rico had adopted resolutions or enacted legislation, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The list doesn't include bills focused on specific AI technologies, such as facial recognition or autonomous cars, something NCSL is tracking separately.

Legislatures in Texas, North Dakota, West Virginia and Puerto Rico have created advisory bodies to study and monitor AI systems their respective state agencies are using, while Louisiana formed a new technology and cyber security committee to study AI's impact on state operations, procurement and policy. Other states took a similar approach last year.

Lawmakers want to know "Who's using it? How are you using it? Just gathering that data to figure out what's out there, who's

Generative AI refers to a class of artificial intelligence that can generate new data, such as images, text, or music, that is similar to the data it was trained on. Generative models learn to recognize patterns and relationships in the input data and then use this knowledge to generate new data that is similar to the training data but is not identical.

There are many different types of generative AI models, including Variational Autoencoders (VAEs), Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs), and Autoregressive models. VAEs learn a probabilistic model of the input data and then generate new data samples by sampling from this model. GANs consist of two neural networks, a generator and a discriminator, that work together to generate new data that is indistinguishable from the real data. Autoregressive models learn a probability distribution over the input data and then generate new data by sampling from this distribution.

Generative AI has the potential to revolutionize many industries, from healthcare to entertainment.



The OpenAI logo is seen on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen displaying output from ChatGPT, March 21, 2023, in Boston. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer, File)

doing what," said Heather Morton, a legislative analyst at NCSL who tracks artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, privacy and internet issues in state legislatures. "That is something that the states are trying to figure out within their own state borders."

Connecticut's new law, which requires AI systems used by state agencies to be regularly scrutinized for possible unlawful discrimination, comes after an investigation by the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School determined AI is

already being used to assign students to magnet schools, set bail and distribute welfare benefits, among other tasks. However, details of the algorithms are mostly unknown to the public.

AI technology, the group said, "has spread throughout Connecticut's government rapidly and largely unchecked, a development that's not unique to this state."

Richard Eppink, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho, testified before Congress in May about discover-

ing, through a lawsuit, the "secret computerized algorithms" Idaho was using to assess people with developmental disabilities for federally funded health care services. The automated system, he said in written testimony, included corrupt data that relied on inputs the state hadn't validated.

AI can be shorthand for many different technologies, ranging from algorithms recommending what to watch next on Netflix to generative AI systems such as ChatGPT that can aid in writing or create new images or other media. The surge of commercial investment in generative AI tools has generated public fascination and concerns about their ability to trick people and spread disinformation, among other dangers.

Some states haven't attempted to tackle the issue yet. In Hawaii, state Sen. Chris Lee, a Democrat, said lawmakers didn't pass any legislation this year governing AI "simply because I think at the time, we didn't know what to do." □

4 new offshore wind power projects proposed for New Jersey Shore; 2 would be far out to sea

By Wayne Parry
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) —

Wind power developers proposed four new projects off the New Jersey Shore on Friday, a surge that would more than double the number of wind farms built off its coast if they are approved by regulators.

At least two of them are more than twice as far out to sea than others that have drawn the ire of residents who don't want to see windmills on the horizon. These two would not be visible from the beach, the companies proposing them say.

They would join three wind farms already approved by New Jersey regulators as



Land-based windmills in Atlantic City turn on July 20, 2023. (AP Photo/Wayne Parry)

the state races to become the East Coast capital of the fast-growing offshore wind industry.

In the first project to be made public Friday by the companies proposing it, Essen, Germany-based RWE and New York-based National Grid applied for

permission to build a wind farm in the waters off Long Beach Island. Their joint venture is called Community Offshore Wind, and it aims to generate enough electricity to power 500,000 homes.

Unlike other projects that have drawn intense opposition from homeowners in part because they are close enough to the

Atlantic City and Ocean City shorelines to be seen by beachgoers, this project would be built 37 miles (59 kilometers) offshore and would not be visible from the shore, said Doug Perkins, president and project director of Community Offshore Wind.

He said the project has "the potential to transform New Jersey into a nation-

leading clean energy development, training and manufacturing hub." He said his company is the second-largest wind power developer globally, following Danish wind developer Orsted.

Community Offshore said it has not yet determined how many wind turbines would be built as part of the project.

The second bid was submitted by Chicago-based Invenergy and New York-based energyRE for a project 40 miles (64 kilometers) off Long Beach Island called Leading Light Wind. It would consist of up to 100 turbines, enough to power 1 million homes. □

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The EPA's ambitious plan to cut auto emissions to slow climate change runs into skepticism

By Tom Krisher

Associated Press

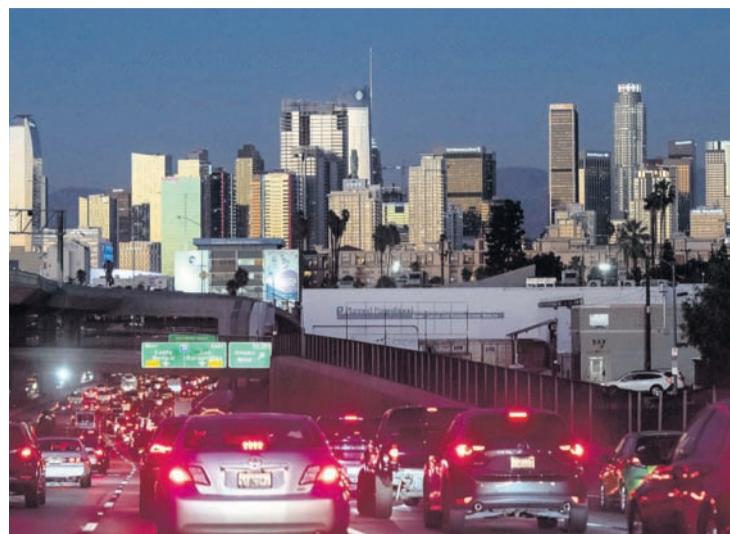
DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government's most ambitious plan ever to slash planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles faces skepticism both about how realistic it is and whether it goes far enough.

The Environmental Protection Agency in April announced new strict emissions limits that the agency says are vital to slowing climate change as people around the globe endure record-high temperatures, raging wildfires and intense storms.

The EPA says the industry could meet the limits if 67% of new-vehicle sales are electric by 2032, a pace the auto industry calls unrealistic. However, the new rule would not require automakers to boost electric vehicle sales directly. Instead, it sets emissions limits and allows automakers to choose how to meet them. Even if the industry boosts EV sales to the level the EPA recommends, any reduction in pollution could prove more modest than the agency expects. The Associated Press has estimated that nearly 80% of vehicles being driven in the U.S. — more than 200 million — would still run on gasoline or diesel fuel.

Carbon dioxide and methane levels in the atmosphere keep rising. Scientists say July will end up being the hottest month on record and likely the warmest human civilization has seen. The Earth is only a few tenths of a degree from the goal set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Though a panel of United Nations scientists said in March that there was still time to prevent the worst harm from climate change, the scientists said the world would need to quickly cut nearly two-thirds of carbon emissions by 2035 to avoid weather that is even more extreme.



Traffic moves along the 110 Freeway in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

Peter Slowik, a senior EV researcher with the non-profit International Council on Clean Transportation, has calculated that to cut emissions enough to reach Paris Agreement goals, the proportion of new electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles sold would have to reach 67% by 2030. The EPA has projected 60% by then. The council has calculated that carbon dioxide pollution from passenger vehicles would have to drop to 57 grams per mile by 2030 to reach the Paris goals. The EPA's preferred regulation would cut those emissions to 102 grams per mile by 2030 and to 82 by 2032. In addition, Slowik cautioned, carbon emissions from new gasoline vehicles would have to drop 3.5% each year from 2027 to 2032. The EPA's preferred regulation doesn't set re-

ductions for gas vehicles. But fuel economy standards recently proposed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration could.

What does the EPA say? The EPA contends its proposal will significantly reduce pollution. It estimates that passenger-vehicle carbon dioxide emissions would fall 47% by 2055, when the agency expects most gas-powered vehicles to be gone.

As the biggest source of pollution in the United States, transportation generates roughly 29% of heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions, according to the EPA. Passenger vehicles are by far the worst transportation polluters, spewing 58% of that sector's greenhouse gas pollution.

The EPA also is proposing big reductions from other

sources, including heavy trucks, electric power plants and the oil and gas industry.

Using sales projections from the EPA and industry analysts from 2022 through model year 2032, the AP calculated that Americans will likely buy roughly 60 million EVs. With 284 million passenger vehicles on U.S. roads today, at that pace only about 22% of them would be electric in nine years. Two million are already in use, and vehicles now stay on the road for an average of 12.5 years.

Dave Cooke, a senior vehicles analyst for the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that even with slow vehicle turnover, studies show the EPA's proposal would be an important step toward a zero-carbon transportation system by 2050. In addition, power plants that fuel EVs, he noted, will be converted to renewable energy such as wind and solar. □

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Social media influencer Kai Cenat faces charges of inciting riot after thousands cause mayhem in NYC

By Bobby Caina Calvan
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Social media influencer Kai Cenat is facing charges of inciting a riot and promoting an unlawful gathering in New York City, after the online streamer drew thousands of his followers, many of them teenagers, with promises of giving away electronics, including a new PlayStation. The event produced chaos, with dozens of people arrested — some jumping atop vehicles, hurling bottles and throwing punches. Cenat was released early Saturday from police custody after being issued a desk appearance ticket, which police issue to require a suspect to appear in court to answer charges. A police spokesperson said he is to appear in court on Aug. 18.

The mayhem in New York City's Union Square Friday afternoon put further focus on the hold social media influencers have on the people who follow and fawn over them.

"Our children cannot be raised by social media," Mayor Eric Adams said Saturday during a press briefing on an unrelated crime. Police said they arrested 65 people, including 30 juve-



In this image taken from video provided by WABC-TV, internet influencer Kai Cenat, center left, places his hands on his face as he is helped into a New York Police vehicle near Union Square, Friday, Aug. 4, 2023, in New York.

niles. Several people were injured, including some with bloodied faces. At least four people were taken away in ambulances.

"I don't think people realize the level of discipline that we showed to take a very dangerous, volatile situation and to be able to bring it to a level of resolve without any loss of life or any substantial damage to property and without young people harming themselves," Adams said. Cenat, 21, is a video creator with 6.5 million followers on the platform Twitch, where he regularly livestreams. He also boasts 4 million subscribers on YouTube, where

he posts daily life and comedy vlogs ranging from "Fake Hibachi Chef Prank!" to his most recent video, "I Rented Us Girlfriends In Japan!"

His 299 YouTube videos have amassed more than 276 million views among them. In December, he was crowned streamer of the year at the 12th annual Streamy Awards.

Media representatives for AMP, which represents Cenat and a small group of other influencers, said in an email Saturday that the Union Square event was intended to show appreciation to fans.

"We've hosted fan meet

ups and video shoots in the past, but we've never experienced anything at the scale of what took place yesterday," AMP said.

"We recognize that our audience and influence is growing, and with that comes greater responsibility," the statement continued. "We are deeply disheartened by the outbreak of disorderly conduct that affected innocent people and businesses, and do not condone behavior."

In its apology, the company said it was cooperating with authorities.

Livestreaming on Twitch from a vehicle as the event gathered steam, Cenat displayed gift cards he planned to give away. Noting the crowd and police presence, he urged, "Everybody who's out there, make sure y'all safe. ... We're not gonna do nothin' until it's safe."

Eventually he and an entourage got out of the vehicle and hustled through a crowd, crossed a street and went into the park, where Cenat was surrounded by a cheering, shoving mob.

Chief Jeffrey Maddrey of the New York Police Department said Cenat at some point in the afternoon was removed "for his

safety" and police were in contact with him. Videos posted on social media and taken from news helicopters showed Cenat being lifted over a fence and out of the crowd and then placed in a police vehicle.

Aerial TV news footage showed a surging, tightly packed crowd running through the streets, scaling structures in the park and snarling traffic. Shouting teenagers swung objects at car windows, threw paint cans and set off fire extinguishers. Some people climbed on a moving vehicle, falling off as it sped away. Others pounded on or climbed atop city buses. Skylark Jones, 19, likened the scene to "a movie," as he said police arrived with riot gear and began "charging at people."

Jones arrived with a friend hoping to get a chance at getting one of the giveaways. When they arrived, the scene was already packed and things became unruly even before Cenat appeared, he said. Maddrey said three officers were hurt.

"We have encountered things like this before but never to this level of dangerousness," Maddrey said. □

Opera singer David Daniels and his husband plead guilty to sexual assault

Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Renowned opera singer David Daniels and his husband have pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting another singer in Houston.

Daniels, 57, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Scott Walters, 40, entered the pleas Friday after a jury was assembled for the trial of the pair on first-degree felony charges of aggravated sexual assault.

Both pleaded guilty to sexual assault of an adult, a second-degree felony, and were sentenced to eight years' probation and required to register as sex

offenders.

Daniels, Walters and their attorney declined to comment following the hearing. Daniels and Walters were charged in 2019 when Samuel Schultz filed a criminal complaint in 2018 alleging the two assaulted him in 2010 after he met them at a Houston Grand Opera reception while he was a graduate student at Rice University.

Schultz said he was invited to their apartment and given a drink that led him to slip in and out of consciousness. He awoke alone and naked.

The AP doesn't normally



Opera singer David Daniels performs as Prospero during the final dress rehearsal of "The Enchanted Island," at the Metropolitan Opera in New York on Dec. 28, 2011. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File)

name victims of sexual assault, but Schultz offered

porting an assault.

Daniels, a countertenor, was fired as a University of Michigan professor and was removed by the San Francisco Opera from a production of Handel's "Orlando" after sexual assault allegations by a student at the university in 2018.

The lawsuit, filed in a federal court in Michigan, alleged Daniels groped the male student and sent and requested sexual photos. The lawsuit also alleged that Daniels served the student alcohol, gave him sleep medication and touched him sexually. □

US loses to Sweden on penalty kicks in its earliest Women's World Cup exit ever

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — The United States played its best game of this Women's World Cup and it wasn't good enough to stop the two-time reigning champions from being eliminated in the round of 16. The Americans' bid to win an unprecedented third consecutive title ended Sunday on penalty kicks.

Megan Rapinoe, Sophia Smith and Kelly O'Hara missed with kicks from the penalty spot before Lina Hurtig converted to clinch the shootout 5-4 as Sweden knocked the United States out of the World Cup after a scoreless draw in regulation and extra time.

The Americans controlled the shootout until the trio of misses.

It is the earliest exit in tournament history for the United States, four-time winners of the World Cup.

U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher fruitlessly argued she had saved Hurtig's attempt, but it was ruled over the line by VAR. The stadium played Abba's "Dancing Queen" in the stadium as the Swedes celebrated and the U.S. players sobbed.

She praised Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic, who had 11 saves to deny the U.S. a spot in the quarterfinals. The American's worst previous finish had been third place, three different times.

The loss was somewhat expected based on the Americans' listless play through three group-stage matches. But they played their best game of this World Cup against Sweden, only to have it decided by penalties.

"I am proud of the women on the field," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "I know we were criticized for the way we played, and for different moments in the group stage. I think we came out today and showed the grit, the resilience, the fight. The bravery showed we did every-



United States' players react after losing their Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match against Sweden in a penalty shootout in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023. (AP Photo/Hamish Blair)

thing we could to win the game. And, unfortunately, soccer can be cruel sometimes."

It was the fourth time the Americans went to extra time at the World Cup. All

three previous matches went to penalties, including the 2011 final won by Japan. The U.S. won on penalties in a 2011 quarterfinal match against Brazil, and in the 1999 final at the Rose

Bowl against China. Sweden knocked the United States out of the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals on penalties.

Sweden goes on to the quarterfinals to play Japan, which beat Norway 3-1 on Saturday night.

Sweden has never won a major global tournament, either the World Cup or the Olympics. The closest the team has come is World Cup runner-up in 2003. They placed third in the 1999, 2011 and 2019 editions, and won silver medals in the last two Olympics. The result ended the international career of Rapinoe, the Golden Boot winner of the 2019 tournament who is retiring after the World Cup. She had taken on a smaller

role in her final tournament and was a substitute in the United States' first and third games of group play.

She went on in extra time against Sweden and in her final game and few minutes of action, she failed to control a ball played in deep, whiffed on a rebound, hit the side of the net with a corner kick and then missed the penalty that would have put the United States on the verge of victory.

The Americans struggled through group play with just four goals in three matches. They were nearly eliminated last Tuesday by first-timers Portugal, but eked out a 0-0 draw to fall to second in their group for just the second time at a World Cup. □



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Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.



You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! □



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com